

Health Care Science and Services Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:

-  **12,885 Employers**
-  **318,421 Workers**
-  **\$58,788 Average Wage**

Why Have a Career in Health Care?

Health Care Science & Services is the largest employing industry in Missouri, making up 14 percent of total private sector employment. The Health Care Science & Services industry has over 12,000 employers that provide jobs to over 318,000 workers across the state.

Missouri's Health Care industry has particularly high employment concentrations in General Medical and Surgical Hospitals, as well as Nursing and Residential Care Facilities.

Wages in this industry averaged \$58,788 in 2020, higher than the state average of \$54,801 for all industries. An aging patient population and retiring health care workers contribute to the growing and projected need.

The Health Care industry provides a variety of work opportunities for every interest. From jobs that directly care for patients to careers that keep the whole system going, important jobs are waiting to be filled in Patient Care, Diagnostic/Therapeutic, and Business Operations.

Know the Basics

Health Care careers often involve interactions with patients and other team members, so active listening and communication skills are important. Health Care includes many essential occupations that need to be staffed around the clock, so dependability and reliability are a must. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability are important in all industries and occupations.

Skills needed for Success:

The Health Care Science and Services industry has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. With the need for privacy and confidentiality in these industries, workers need to have knowledge of health industry ethics, laws and regulations, in addition to being able to keep accurate and confidential documentation. Patient interaction, infection control, understanding of drugs and medications, as well as the knowledge of diagnostic procedures, scientific methods, and technology are some of the skills needed for success in this industry.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

BJC Healthcare
Mercy Health
Saint Luke's Health System
Hospital Corporation America
SSM Health Care



Patient Care

Diagnostic/ Therapeutic

Business Operations

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Home Health & Personal Care Aides
Entry: \$21,600; Average: \$25,840

Psychiatric Aides
Entry: \$24,300; Average: \$29,610

Receptionists & Information Clerks
Entry: \$24,150; Average: \$29,930

Certificates: Home Health Aide, Certified Caregiver, First Aid CPR AED, Nursing Assistant

Certificates: First Aid CPR AED

Certificates: Certified Healthcare Access Associate (CHAA), First Aid CPR AED

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long- Term On-the-Job Training

Nursing Assistants
Entry: \$22,580; Average: \$27,720

Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses
Entry: \$38,560; Average: \$44,490

Emergency Medical Technicians
Entry: \$28,140; Average: \$38,170

Dental Assistants
Entry: \$32,060; Average: \$38,610

Dental Hygienists
Entry: \$59,790; Average: \$69,730

Pharmacy Technicians
Entry: \$26,360; Average: \$33,670

Medical Records & Health Info. Technicians
Entry: \$35,140; Average: \$47,160

Computer User Support Specialists
Entry: \$38,080; Average: \$53,600

Medical Secretaries
Entry: \$29,040; Average: \$36,610

Certificates: Nursing Assistant, Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Certificates: Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant American, First Aid CPR AED

Certificates: Registered Health Information Technician, Certified Professional Coder, Certified A+ Technician, Network +, Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP)

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Registered Nurses
Entry: \$52,890 Average: \$65,900

Physical Therapists
Entry: \$70,760; Average: \$84,660

Family Medicine Physicians
Entry: \$67,490; Average: \$194,120

Dentists
Entry: \$107,830; Average: \$157,030

Pharmacists
Entry: \$114,740; Average: \$127,430

Healthcare Social Workers
Entry: \$37,640; Average: \$49,050

Software Developers
Entry: \$73,420; Average: \$96,530

Medical & Health Services Managers
Entry: \$77,840; Average: \$112,500

Accountants & Auditors
Entry: \$50,310; Average: \$71,130

Degrees: Nursing Science, Physical Therapy, Medicine

Degrees: Social Work, Pharmacy, Mental Health, Dental Medicine

Degrees: Computer Science, Information Technology, Accounting, Business Administration & Management

Sources:

EMSI Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse

2020 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Top employers data is based on 2021 online job ads



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